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CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM

"No Compromise with Wrong"

The Conservative Party of Saskatchewan hereby pledges itself to support the following policies and to put them into effect when returned to power.

Adopted at a Convention of nominated candidates with the officials of the Provincial Conservative Association held at Regina, on Wednesday, April 25, 1917.

W. H. Willoughby, M.L.A., Leader of the Opposition.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

The immediate renewal of the negotiations for the transfer to Saskatchewan of the provincial lands and natural resources at present controlled by the Dominion Government on the basis of the terms put forward by Premier Haultain prior to 1905.

FARM LOANS

That the Farm Loans Commission be furnished as needed with the necessary funds to exercise the powers given to it in addition to the making of loans by buying and selling land to settlers for agricultural purposes as is now practised under the parent New Zealand system.

More urgent than farm loans is the need of providing better facilities for granting short date loans and we pledge ourselves to find a solution of this problem unless satisfactory legislation is passed by the Dominion Government for rural credits.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC

The complete prohibition of the liquor traffic of the province by making the consumption of intoxicating liquor as a beverage an offence against the law, thereby preventing its importation into the province from outside by means of the provisions of the Doherty Act.

GOOD ROADS

The creation of a good roads commission, whose members shall be answerable to the legislature only. The commission to have general jurisdiction over the building and maintenance of all roads and bridge construction, but the initiation of all road work to be undertaken by the municipalities affected who also will retain control of the expenditures. Seventy-five

per cent. of the cost of construction and maintenance of all lateral roads and twenty-five per cent. of the cost of all trunk roads to be paid by the municipalities, the balance coming from the general revenues of the province.

SCHOOLS

Reiterating the policy adopted unanimously at the convention of the Saskatchewan Conservative Association at Regina on January 18, 1917, that prompt changes be made in the law respecting schools and education and in the regulations made thereunder respecting text-books and the qualifications of teachers as will provide in every school in Saskatchewan, whether public or separate, private or parochial, adequate and efficient instruction in reading, writing and speaking the English language and the securing of an administration of the law as to assure by frequent and qualified inspection that this end will be absolutely attained.

EDUCATION

While unwilling to make education a purely party matter, we deplore the inefficiency of the present school system and hold the government responsible therefor.

We suggest immediate amendment in legislation and administration along the following, among other lines, having in view more particularly our rural schools:

- Pensions for teachers.

- Minimum salaries for teachers, graded according to qualifications and experience.

- The erection of school residences for teachers.

- The simplification of the curriculum, laying more stress on the essentials of reading, writing and arithmetic, and English grammar and composition.

- The compulsory teaching of civics and practical patriotism and of the elementary rules of sanitation, hygiene and personal cleanliness.

- Extending to rural schools facilities for secondary education, and to urban schools facilities for technical training.

- Public boarding schools and the making of the school a community centre.

- A large increase in the number of inspectors and the utilizing of these and of others to a greater degree as school superintendents and advisers.

- The consolidation of school districts, especially in the more densely settled portions of the province and among the non-English speaking people.

- Abolishing the office of school district inspector.

- A change in the system of administration under which the school district is the unit of government.

- The providing of a greater latitude in the fixing of times for vacations to suit local conditions.

HAIL INSURANCE

The institution of a hail insurance system which shall be voluntary for all residents and positive, the deficit in any abnormal year being borrowed from the general revenues of the province. The total losses to be paid on September 1 of each year, and partial losses on November 1.

WOMEN

The enactment of legislation for the bettering of the social and economic conditions of women and for the elimination of those legislative handicaps under which they are placed by reason of their sex.

The principle of equal pay for equal work between men and women.
A minimum wage for all women wage-earners, regardless of occupation.
Regulations governing the maximum hours of labor for women and girls.
Pensions for all mothers who, through need or other disability, are unable to bring up their families.

The establishment of a detention home for girls and the passing of more humane laws dealing with the arrest and detention of women prisoners.

Financial assistance to qualified maternity and general nurses working in the sparsely settled districts of the province.

The enforcement of rules respecting the hygienic condition under which women work.

LIVESTOCK

The active encouragement of co-operatively owned mills, abattoirs, packing plants and cold storage warehouses by loans and such other steps as may seem advisable in order that the grain-growing and livestock industries of the province may be fostered.

RETURNED SOLDIERS

Hearty and sympathetic co-operation with the Dominion Government authorities in their efforts to assist soldiers of the C.E.F. in resuming their civil occupations.

The granting of supplementary pensions to the dependent mothers and widows of members of the C.E.F. who have given their lives for their country and who resided in the province before enlistment. Payments to be continued while such beneficiaries retain their domicile in Saskatchewan.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The appropriation of a sufficient sum to create and maintain a branch of Industrial Research in connection with the University of Saskatchewan to co-operate with the recently appointed Board of National Scientists and with manufacturing industrial concerns of this province and to undertake such work of investigation as is now carried on by government-named commissioners or private enterprise, especially with regard to lignite coal and its by-products, clay and its products, straw, and in the development of cheap light, power and heat.

CIVIL SERVICE

With the idea of establishing an efficient and permanent Civil Service, all appointments thereto to be based on a system of competitive examinations under the administration of a Civil Service Commission, preference being given to returned soldiers. All Government supplies and all contracts involving the expenditure of public money to be let by tender. The appointment of a Purchasing Agent should be immediately made, such official to have control of the buying of supplies.

TELEPHONES

That the entire public telephone service of the Province be placed under Government management and control, and that all the telephone systems not now owned by the Government be acquired on an equitable basis.

REFERENDUM

Such measure of direct legislation as can be constitutionally enacted and carried out.

Bradshaw Papers

R.N.W.M.P.

The return of the R.N.W.M.P. to the performance of the work in which they were long engaged, when the special task in which they are now employed shall have terminated after the war.

JAIL FARMS

The extension of the jail farm system and the establishment of a Prisons Board to have authority over all jails and lock-ups in the Province and power to extend the parole system.

GRAND JURIES

The establishment of a grand jury system with wide powers of investigation into all matters of civil administration and in the enforcement of law and order.

RAILWAYS

All future railway legislation shall be drawn with a view to the nationalization of the railway systems of Canada, and end to the attainment of which we will use our best efforts to the full extent of provincial powers.

ELECTION REFORM

The compulsory publication of the names of all those contributing to party campaign funds and the amounts of their contributions. The simplification of the law respecting disputed elections so that investigations into the same can be conducted with greater economy and despatch.

LEGAL PROCEDURE

The simplification of the present system of legal procedure and considerable reduction of official fees, especially those charged in the land titles' sheriffs' and clerk of the court branches of administration.

RESOLUTIONS

We, the candidates nominated in our several constituencies to be the standard bearers in the forthcoming provincial election, assembled in convention with the officers and executive of the Provincial Conservative Association, enter a strong protest against certain actions and policies of the present Liberal Administration.

We condemn the action of the Government in dealing with the votes for overseas soldiers by which the men who have volunteered their services for the Empire and are fighting our battles have been segregated as a military class and disfranchised in their home constituencies.

We condemn the policy of the Government in promising to construct hundreds of miles of railway for the purpose of securing votes and the program of construction—not one half of the amount guaranteed being completed—which has placed railway building under the control of the existing companies, without regard for the real need of the settlers.

We condemn the extravagant and wasteful administration of the Government by which the public debt of the Province has been increased by eighteen million dollars in five years.

We condemn the political jobbery, the graft and corruption with which every department of Government has been honeycombed, and which has resulted in bringing disgrace on our Province.

We condemn the system by which Justices of the Peace, Notaries Public, Commissioners for Oaths, Court Bailiffs and other officials have been appointed for political reasons and without due regard, in a large number of cases, for their qualifications for the office they hold.